

The 2nd Congressional District of Illinois is a major part of the nation's transportation system. Many interstate highways come through the area and many of the nation's major rail lines cross in the south suburbs. There is also a major seaport in the district, which links the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. The highway and public transportation systems are extensive, but have some significant challenges - Southland residents endure some of the longest commuting times in the nation. A major reason for that is the wealth of jobs and other economic opportunities farther north and west of my district. I hope to improve that situation by working to bring the Abraham Lincoln National Airport, and the economic growth associated with airport development and operation, to the south suburbs.

Illinois Department of Transportation Update

The Chicago Regional Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) public and private partners announced the completion of a \$4.5 million railroad modernization project. The project improved the 40 year-old signal system and helped mitigate conflicting use of tracks among freight trains, Metra, and Amtrak along the Indiana Harbor Belt Corridor from Bedford Park to Summit.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

President Obama and Transportation Secretary LaHood have announced that \$27 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds are headed to states to provide critical repairs to our nation's crumbling roads and bridges.

Parts of the allocation are set aside to make sure that urban, suburban, and rural areas alike all get a share. But since local leaders -- mayors and governors -- know their communities best, much of the money is left to states' discretion.

[Read more on how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will help to rebuild America's infrastructure](#)